

In the Claims:

Amend Claims 1-3 and 19.

1. (Currently amended). An explosion-operated power tool, comprising:

a housing (1) having a cylindrical cavity (5) and a piston chamber (2) for receiving a drive piston (3) and communicating with the cavity (5);

a breech bottom (8) located opposite the cavity (5) and fixedly secured relative to the housing (1) at a predetermined distance from the housing (1); and

a sealing sleeve (12) located in the cavity (5) of the housing (1) and displaceable axially away from the breech bottom (8) for enabling a sidewise feeding of a cartridge (10) for positioning the cartridge between the breech bottom and the sealing sleeve (12) and toward the breech bottom (8) for securing the cartridge between the breech bottom (8) and the sealing sleeve (12).

2. (Currently amended). A power tool according to claim 1, wherein central axes (4, 6) of the cavity (5) and the piston chamber (2) ~~are inclined toward extend at an angle~~ to each other.

3. (Currently amended). A power tool according to claim 2, wherein the central axes of the cavity (5) and the piston chamber (2) ~~are inclined toward each other at form~~ an angle of 90° with each other.

4. (Withdrawn). A power tool according to claim 1, wherein central axes (4, 6) of the cavity (5) and the piston chamber are coaxially arranged relative to each other.

5. (Original). A power tool according to claim 1, wherein the sealing sleeve (12) has surfaces (21, 22) which provide for displacement of the sealing sleeve (12) toward the breech bottom (8) upon action of gas pressure thereon.

6. (Original). A power tool according to claim 5, wherein one of the surfaces (22) is defined by a bottom surface of the sealing sleeve (12) and which is spaced from a bottom (16) of the cavity (5) when the sealing sleeve (12) receives the cartridge.

7. (Withdrawn). A power tool according to claim 6, wherein another of the surfaces (21) is provided at an end of the sealing sleeve (12) facing the breech bottom (6) and formed as an inwardly inclined section of the sealing sleeve (12).

8. (Original). A power tool according to claim 1, comprising circumferential seals (29; 47-49; 52) encompassing the sealing sleeve (12).

9. (Withdrawn). A power tool according to claims 8, wherein the sealing sleeve (12) has at an end thereof remote from the breech bottom (8) a circumferential recess (51) formed in an end surface (50) thereof for forming a thin outer wall section (52) which is pressed against an inner wall (53) of the cavity (5) under action of gas pressure.

10. (Original). A power tool according to claim 1, further comprising a guide pin (15) for guiding the sealing sleeve (12) and projecting from the housing (1) into the cavity (5) in a direction toward the breech bottom (8).

11. (Original). A power tool according to claim 10, wherein the sealing sleeve (12) has inner elongate channels (19) through which gas

pressure, which is produced upon ignition of the cartridge (10), is communicated to the piston chamber (2).

12. (Withdrawn). A power tool according to claim 11, wherein, noses (15) provided on the guide pin (15) project into the inner channel (19).

13. (Original). A power tool according to claim 1, comprising spring means for displacing the sealing sleeve (12) against the breech bottom (8).

14. (Original). A power tool according to claim 1, further comprising an actuation element (32) provided at a front end thereof and displaceable relative to the housing (1) for operating a mechanism (36, 37, 38, 13) for displacing the sealing sleeve (12), the displacing mechanism displacing the sealing sleeve (12) toward and away from the breech bottom (8) upon displacement of the actuation element (32) toward the housing (1) and away therefrom, respectively.

15. (Original). A power tool according to claim 14, wherein the displacing mechanism comprises a spring fork (13) for retaining the sealing sleeve (12), the spring fork (13) being lifted against a spring force thereof upon displacement of the actuation member (32) toward the housing (1).

16. (Original). A power tool according to claim 14, wherein the cartridges (10) are fed in a region between the sealing sleeve (12) and the breech bottom (8) dependent on a displacement position of the actuation element (32).

17. (Original). A power tool according the claim 1, wherein cartridges (10) are formed as blister cartridges and are connected with each other forming a cartridge belt (9).

18. (Original). A power tool according to claim 17, wherein the cartridges (10) project above one side of the belt (12), with another side of the belt being displaceable along the breech bottom (8), sliding therealong.

19. (Currently amended). A power tool according to claim ~~19~~ 18, wherein an end surface (55) of the sealing sleeve (12) facing the breech bottom (8) has a circumferential nose-shaped projection (54, 54a) extending axially and radially inward.

20. (Original). A power tool according to claim 18, wherein the breech bottom (8) has a circumferential nose-shaped projection (58) extending

toward an end surface (55) of the sealing sleeve (12) adjacent to the breech bottom (8).

21. (Original). A power tool according to claim 18, wherein the breech bottom (8) has a truncated cone-shaped projection (59) extending toward an end surface (55) of the sealing sleeve (12) adjacent to the breech bottom (8), the truncated cone-shaped projection (59) projecting into the sealing sleeve (12) upon displacement of same toward the breech bottom (8).

22. (Original). A power tool according to claim 18, wherein the breech bottom (8) has a disc-shaped projection (61) extending toward and end surface (55) of the sealing sleeve (12) adjacent to and parallel to the breech bottom (8) and having a circumferential edge thereof located opposite an inner edge of the sealing sleeve (12).